

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DHA-02 VO-01

SCA-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 L-01 IO-03 SY-02

SSO-00 INRE-00 /045 W

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O R 131748Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6517

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17509

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SREF, UP, UK (ARUTYUNYAN, SUREN KARAPETOVICH)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASYLUM BY SOVIET CITIZEN

REF: LONDON 17332

SUMMARY. ARUTYUNYAN HAS "RE-DEFECTED" TO SOVIETS AND HAS BEEN ALLOUED TO RETURN TO USSR BY BRITISH AUTHORITIES, WHO ARE CONVINCED THAT HIS "RE-DEFECTION" WAS MADE VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT PRESSURE. END SUMMARY.

1. FCO NOTIFIED EMBASSY LATE IN MORNING OF NOVEMBER 13 THAT ARUTYUNYAN HAD LEFT HIS LODGINGS EVENING OF NOVEMBER 12 AND HAD NOT RETURNED. BRITISH SUSPECTED THAT ARUTYUNYAN HAD FALLEN IN WITH LOCAL ARMENIAN COMMUNITY AND GONE FOR "NIGHT ON THE TOWN."

2. A FEW HOURS LATER, FCO ADVISED THAT EARLY IN AFTER-NOON, ARUTYUNYAN WAS AT HEATHROW AIRPORT IN COMPANY OF

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SIX SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICERS AND WAS CLAIMING THAT HE

WISHED TO RETURN TO USSR. DESPITE PRESSURE FROM SOVIET EMBASSY, BRITISH REFUSED TO ALLOW ARUTYUNYAN TO DEPART UNTIL HE HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED BY A RUSSIAN-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION OFFICER OUT OF THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET EMBOFFS. THIS INTERVIEW WAS SUBSEQUENTLY HELD (IN PRESENCE OF SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICER, ALTHOUGH THIS DETAIL WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC), AND BRITISH WERE SATISFIED THAT ARUTYUNYAN'S DESIRE TO RETURN WAS SINCERE AND VOLUNTARY. ACCORDINGLY, ARUTYUNYAN WAS ALLOWED TO BOARD MOSCOW-OUND PLANE AND IS NOW EN ROUTE TO USSR.

3. IN RESPONQE TO ANY PRESS QUERIES, WE SHALL REPLY ALONG FOLLOWILG LINES: "WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED HAS RETURNED TO THE SOVIET UNION. FURTHER INQUIPIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE FCO, IN WHOSE CARE HE HAD BEEN PLACED, WITH HIS CONSENT, ON NOVEMBER 7."

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON17509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750395-0911
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751146/aaaabpit.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 LONDON 17332
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR ASYLUM BY SOVIET CITIZEN
TAGS: SREF, UR, UK, (ARUTYUNYAN, SUREN KARAPETOVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006